Isometric Lạnṇạ

An *isometric* script is one-to-one correspondent with a certain script in question. It is not the same as either a transcription or a transliteration, in a popular, misleading understanding that the former is a representation of sound while the latter that of spelling. These definitions are erroneous because you seldom find a transcription that is faithful to the sounds, and a transliteration to the spellings. Sounds of any two scripts are usually different, and transcriptions are normally unpronounceable.

The purpose of an isometric script is to represent all points in the grammar through some different, but equivalent and presentable script. Such script must be useable, as well as be able to wholly replace the other script with ease.

The Lạnṇạ language is also known as Lạ̄nṇạ. There are 33 letters of the alphabet, namely k, kh, g, gh, ng, c, ch, j, jh, ñ, ṭ, ṭh, ḍ, ḍh, ṇ, t, th, d, dh, n, p, ph, b, bh, m, y, r, l, v, s, h, ḷ and '. The last character merely means the absence of any letter, and may be left unwritten.

The main part of all the characters above forms a matrix as follows.

k	kh	g	gh	ng
c	ch	j	jh	ñ
ṭ	ṭh	ḍ	ḍh	ṇ
t	th	d	dh	n
p	ph	b	bh	m

There are additional 10 characters for the purpose of writing foreign words or sounds. These are namely ḳh, ġ, z, ṗ, fh, f, ŷ, ṣ, ś and ḥ. The capitals of ġ and ṗ are Ġ and Ṗ respectively.

The letters of the alphabet come in families, which are namely *high*, *middle* and *low*. The high and the low families contain only consonants.

In the high family there are k, kh, c, ch, ṭ, ṭh, t, th, ṗ, ph, fh, ṣ, ś, s, h; and also ngh, nh, mh, yh, lh, vh, kr, khr, pr, tr, gr, kl and pl. Ḍ, p and ss may also be included in this family.

The middle family contains only four members, which are p, ḍ, ŷ and '.

The low family contains g, gh, ng, j, jh, ñ, ḍh, ṇ, d, dh, n, b, bh, m, y, r, l, v, ḷ, f, ġ, z, ḥ, br, dv, yv, ngv, gl and zl.

Now for the tones, the two opposite poles are the high and the low families. An instance of the former is kạ, kă, kâ; and of the latter gạ, gà, gā. Kạ and gạ are tonally different, the former being high and the latter low as could well be expected. The

middle family is simply both high and low, that is they behave some time as the one, and another time as the other. An instance of this is u̯ï, ŭï, ùï, ûï, ūï, u̯ï. In Lanna orthography ŭï is written the same as ùï, and ûï as ūï.

The above tones are for long vowels. Short vowels may have no tones, thus we write kă, kâ, and gà, gā with no ambiguities, since the a in all these must be long.

A *spelling* letter is a consonant which comes after the vowel of a syllable, it is also known as a final consonant, or simply a final. Final consonants are either strong or weak. Weak finals are namely n, m, ñ, n̤, ï, ü and ö, and no consonants. Ï is the y in its final form, while ü and ö are both the v. When final, y is ï, and v is either ü or ö. The remaining consonants are all strong.

When a syllable ends in a consonant, if the spelling letter is strong, there would be no tones.

Ka is never written as ká, since the tone is already implied by k being of the high family. In fact the tone mark ◌́ is never used in Lanna all such sounds being implied by the family.

With middle family you normally write, for instance, u̯ï (low), ŭï, ûï, but remember that it may sound either way, that is as though the family be high or low.

With finals you need to distinguish between a and a. All pairs other than this have no such needs, for example kù and kùng always imply an u̯

The following are the vowels in Lanna: a, a, i, i̤, u, u̯, e, o̤; also ȧ, ȧe, ė, ȯ, ȧu, u̇a, iȧ, ȯa, ȯe; and then o, o̤e, ia, oa, am̤, ai, ao, -aṁ, -oṁ and -aṅ.

It is time we look at orthographic components of the Lanna script, their basic components if they are compounds, and our isometric representation of them. *Maīkak* is now -a-. It is also used in place of *maīkȧ* when found in vowels other than a. It is found also in ao, -ė-, -ȯ-, -ȧe, -ȧu-, -u̇a-, -yȧ-, -ȯa- and -ox.e.

Maīyhȧu, or *maīyhak* is either ◌̌ or ◌̀;

Maīzaḍ is either ◌̂ or ◌̄

Maīkȧ is found in -ȧ, -ė, -ȯ, -ȧe, -ȧu, -u̇a, -iȧ, -ȯa, -ȯe and -oȯu.

Maīka is used in a, -o, -ao, -oṁ and -aö.

Maīki is used in i, u̇a, -o̤e, oe, ȯe and ua.

Maīki̤ is found only in i̤, and similarly *maīkue* only in ue, *maīku* in u, *maīku̯* in u̯, and *maīkai* in -ai. *Maīko* (compound of *maīke* and *maīka*) is found only in -o, *maīkao* (compound of *maīke*, *maīka* and *maīkak*) in -ao, *maīkam̤* (compound of *maīka* and *maīkaṁ*) in -aṁ.

Maīki̤ sometimes replaces *maīki* in compound vowels.

Maīke is used in e, u̇a, -o̤e, -iȧ, -ia, -o, -ao, oe, -ȯe and -oṁ.

Maīkae is used in ae and ȧe.

Maīko̤ is used in o̤, ȯ, -ȧu and -ȯu.

Maīkaṁ (nigahit) is used in -aṁ, -au, -am̤ and -oṁ.

Maīkau is used in au, -ȧu, -ox.e, -u̇a, ua, -ȧe and -ȯu.

Maīkong is used in -o-, -oa, -ȯa and -ȯu.

hạngya is used in -iȧ, -ia, -aïï and -ya-.

V is used in oa, -ȯa and -aö.

A is used in -oe and -ua.

There is also *maīkaṅ* (*maīkanglhaı̇*), which is a variant of *maīkaṁ*.